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Blue Ribbon Task Force
Marine Life Protection Act
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

RE: Central Coast MPA Packages

Dear Blue Ribbon Task Force Members:

I am writing to urge you to approve the strongest MPA protection package (#2) during your upcoming meeting. After evaluating the other options, I am convinced that this package will best fulfill the intention and vision of MLP Act, and best serve the public. Although it is unpopular with a small but vocal minority of opponents, I urge you to support it. None of the other options (0, 1, 3, and S) adequately preserve sufficient habitat. Package AC appears to be the best, but I understand that your task force is not going to give this serious consideration, although I would encourage you to do so.

Our state's biological diversity is in crisis. Our coast is home to some of greatest diversity of marine life on the planet, yet it is imperiled by a lack of protection and effective regulations. We have an ethical duty to conserve this diversity of life for future generations – they have a right to experience this just as much as we do.

As a Franciscan Friar I believe we humans have a sacred duty to steward creation. Life's abundance and diversity has been granted to us to care for on behalf of our Creator. It is only ours insofar as we carry it in sacred trust. St. Francis, the founder of my religious brotherhood, was named the patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II because he understood all Creation as brother and sister. Even as a Medieval Italian, he understood the interdependence of life, and he celebrated this. So too can we. Future generations

will judge us for conserving too little of the beauty, diversity, and abundance of biological life.

Thank you very much for your service to the public on this task force, and for exercising the leadership that you do. I urge you to examine all these conservation packages in light of your duty to the common good. In so doing, I believe you will see that package #2 is in fact the preferred option.

Blessings,

(signed)

Dr. Keith Douglass Warner OFM